

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

PROPOSAL NO. 3 OF 2017

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SURVEY OF INCOME AND HOUSING

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct a national household survey – the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) – between July 2017 and June 2018. The SIH is conducted every two years and was last conducted in conjunction with the Household Expenditure Survey in 2015-16, and as a stand alone survey in 2013-14.

The survey will be conducted through personal interviews with all persons aged 15 years and over from a sample of approximately 23,000 private dwellings throughout Australia. Persons aged between 15 and 17 years will only be asked questions with the consent of a parent or guardian.

The information collected will include demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (including education, labour force status, child care arrangements and disability status), financial details (including income, assets and liabilities) and housing characteristics (including tenure, dwelling characteristics, rent and housing costs).

The survey is a primary source of information about the social and economic welfare of Australians, including the distribution of household income and wealth. Additional households are also selected from areas outside of capital cities to contribute to the compilation of key performance indicators for housing affordability that have been agreed by the Council of Australian Governments.

Results from the survey are expected to be released in mid-2019.

The principal users of this survey will be government and other social and economic analysts involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of social and economic policies, in particular the Treasury, Department of Social Services, Department of Employment, Reserve Bank of Australia and the Productivity Commission.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden, the ABS has considered what existing information is available, has consulted with key stakeholders and has extensively field tested the survey to ensure that the required data are readily available and that the respondent load has been minimised.

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